

## House Resolution No.

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who contribute to public safety through their diverse endeavors in the important field of law enforcement; and

**Whereas**, Greg Batson has attained considerable distinction as a police officer with the Joplin Police Department located in southwest Missouri's Newton County; and

**Whereas**, on Tuesday, August 10, 2004, Greg Batson and his law enforcement partner responded to a request to check on the health and safety of a man who was despondent and possibly suicidal because of a recent divorce; and

**Whereas**, when Greg Batson arrived at the residence, the man ran from his backyard into the house; and

**Whereas**, when Officer Batson and his police colleague entered the home, the house exploded and burned because of a natural gas leak; and

**Whereas**, Officer Batson successfully exited from the rear of the house and radioed for assistance, a call to which officers from law-enforcement departments across Jasper and Newton counties, twenty-four Joplin firefighters, and ambulances from METS and Newton County Ambulance Service responded; and

**Whereas**, members of two sheriff's departments, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the police departments in Webb City, Duquesne, and Carl Junction handled routine calls in other parts of the city and controlled the crowds at the scene while Joplin officers focused on investigating the explosion; and

**Whereas**, Officer Batson and his partner were taken to Saint John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin and then transported by helicopter to a Springfield burn unit with burns covering approximately thirty-five to forty-five percent of their bodies; and

**Whereas**, Joplin Police Commander Jim Hounsshell credits Greg Batson's clothing and bulletproof vest with lessening the severity of injuries he suffered in the house fire which killed its occupant:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the long, productive, ongoing career of Greg Batson with the Joplin Police Department and to convey to him this legislative body's best wishes for a complete recovery from injuries received while on duty; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to officer Greg Batson of the Joplin Police Department.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Bryan P. Stevenson  
District No. 128

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. \_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker